AMAR CHITRA KATHA

GURU GOBIND SINGH

THE TENTH SIKH GURU

Vol 588 |



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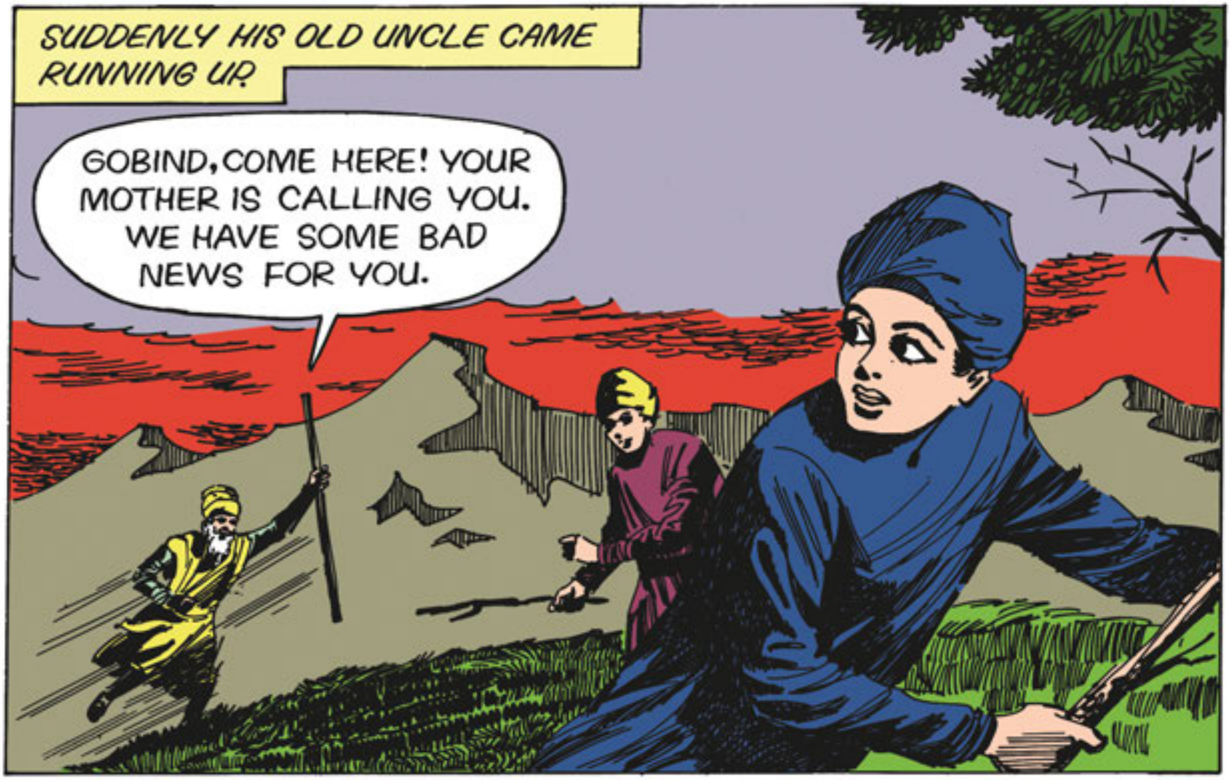
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GURU GOBIND SINGH
IN 1675 IN A SMALL TOWN, ANNANDPUR, ON THE FOOT-HILLS OF THE HIMALAYAS, A NINE-YEAR OLD BOY, GOBIND RAI, WAS PLAY-ING WITH HIS FRIENDS.


SUDDENLY HIS OLD UNCLE CAME RUNNING UP.
GOBIND, COME HERE! YOUR MOTHER IS CALLING YOU. WE HAVE SOME BAD NEWS FOR YOU.


YOUR FATHER IS DEAD.
HE DIED A HERO'S DEATH FOR HIS PEOPLE.


HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE MUGHAL TROOPS AND BROUGHT BEFORE EMPEROR AURANGZEB.


TEGH BAHADUR, YOU ARE NOW AT MY MERCY! IF YOU ARE A SAINT AS PEOPLE SAY, THEN PERFORM SOME MIRACLE OR ELSE RENOUNCE YOUR FAITH.
I WILL TIE A CHARM AROUND MY NECK AND YOUR SWORD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HARM ME!
THE VICEROY ORDERED THAT TEGH BAHADUR'S HEAD SHOULD BE CUT OFF.
TEGH BAHADUR DIED BUT WHEN THEY OPENED THE CHARM—
I GAVE MY HEAD BUT NOT MY FAITH!


YOU ARE NOW THE LEADER OF THE SIKHS! YOU ARE THEIR TENTH GURU.
SO THE DAYS PASSED AND GURU GOBIND LEARNED SANSKRIT, PERSIAN, BRAJ AND PUNJABI.
COME ON! IT'S TIME TO GO HUNTING!
EARLY IN 1677 GURU GOBIND WAS MARRIED TO JITTO.


GURU GOBIND'S FAME SPREAD. SOON SIKHS BEGAN COMING TO HIM WITH OFFERINGS.
LET THOSE WHO COME TO ME BRING GIFTS OF ARMS AND HORSES.
I SHALL DRIVE THE TURKS AND MUGHALS OUT OF OUR MOTHERLAND. OUR WAR-CRY WILL BE "SAT SRI AKAL"_ GOD IS TRUTH. WHO WILL JOIN ME IN THE DHARMA-YUDDHA?
THE MUGHALS ARE THE MIGHTIEST POWER IN ASIA. HOW CAN WE FIGHT AGAINST THEM?
I WILL TEACH THE SPARROW TO HUNT THE HAWK.


"SAT SRI AKAL".
VICTORY TO OUR GURU.
NOT SO SOON! THE MUGHALS MAY ATTACK AGAIN!
WE HAVE HAD OUR FIRST BAPTISM IN STEEL. WE MUST BE EVER READY FOR WAR. I WILL RAISE AN ARMY OF SOLDIER SAINTS.

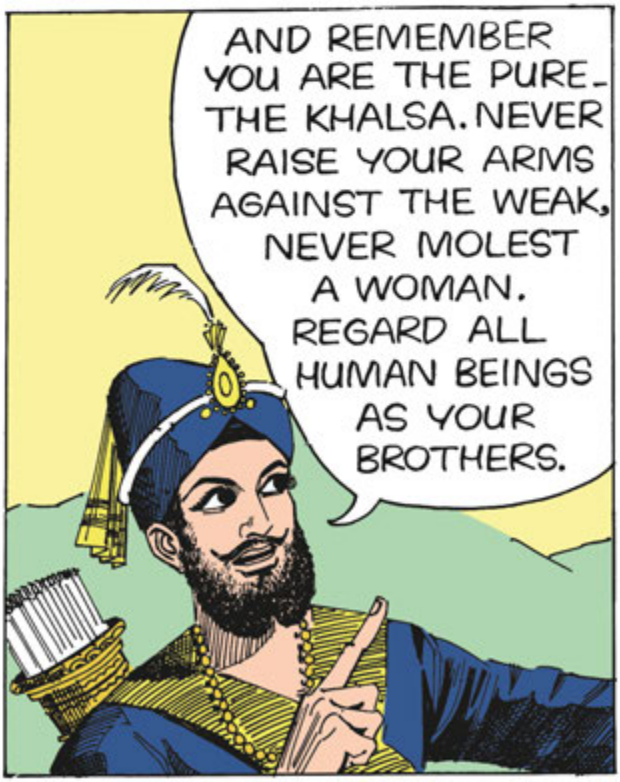
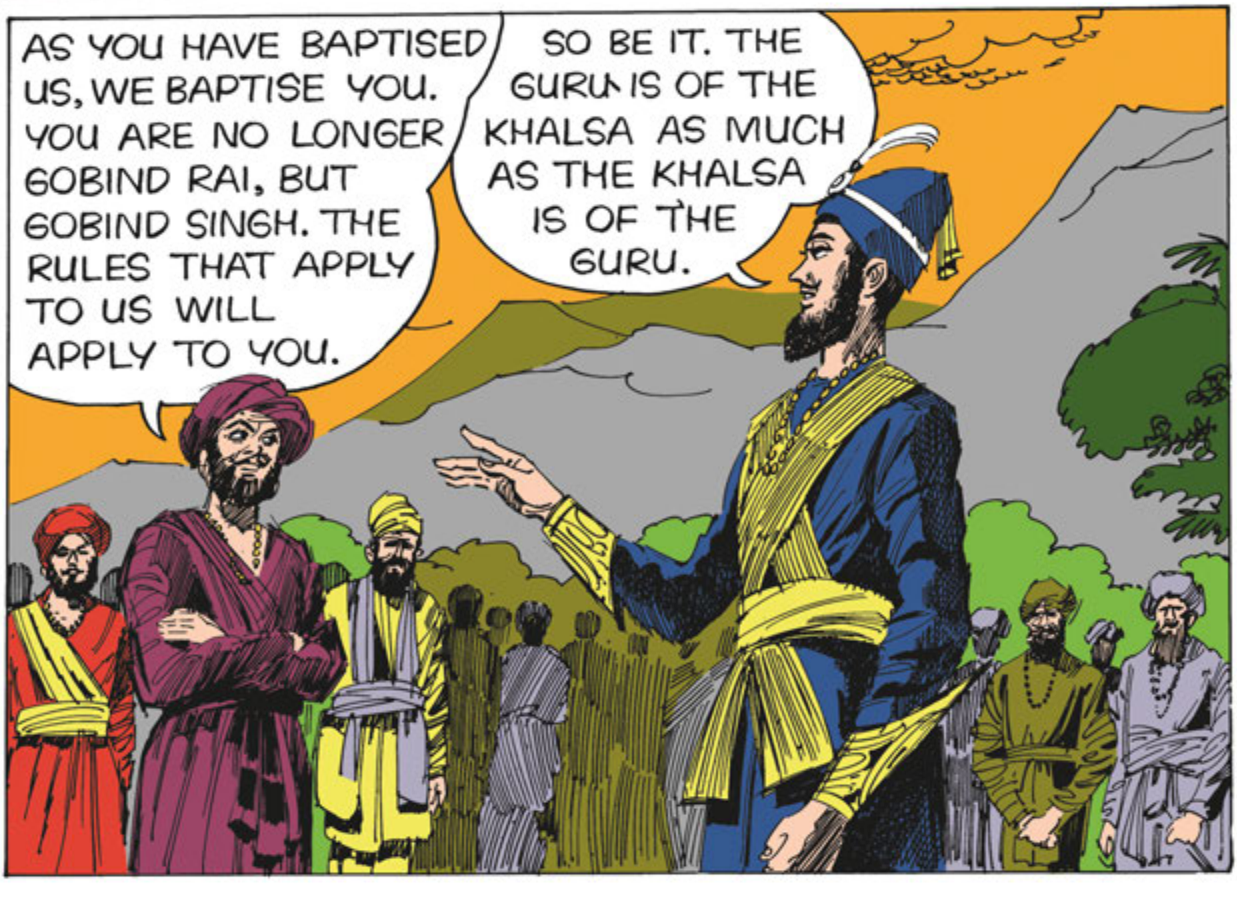


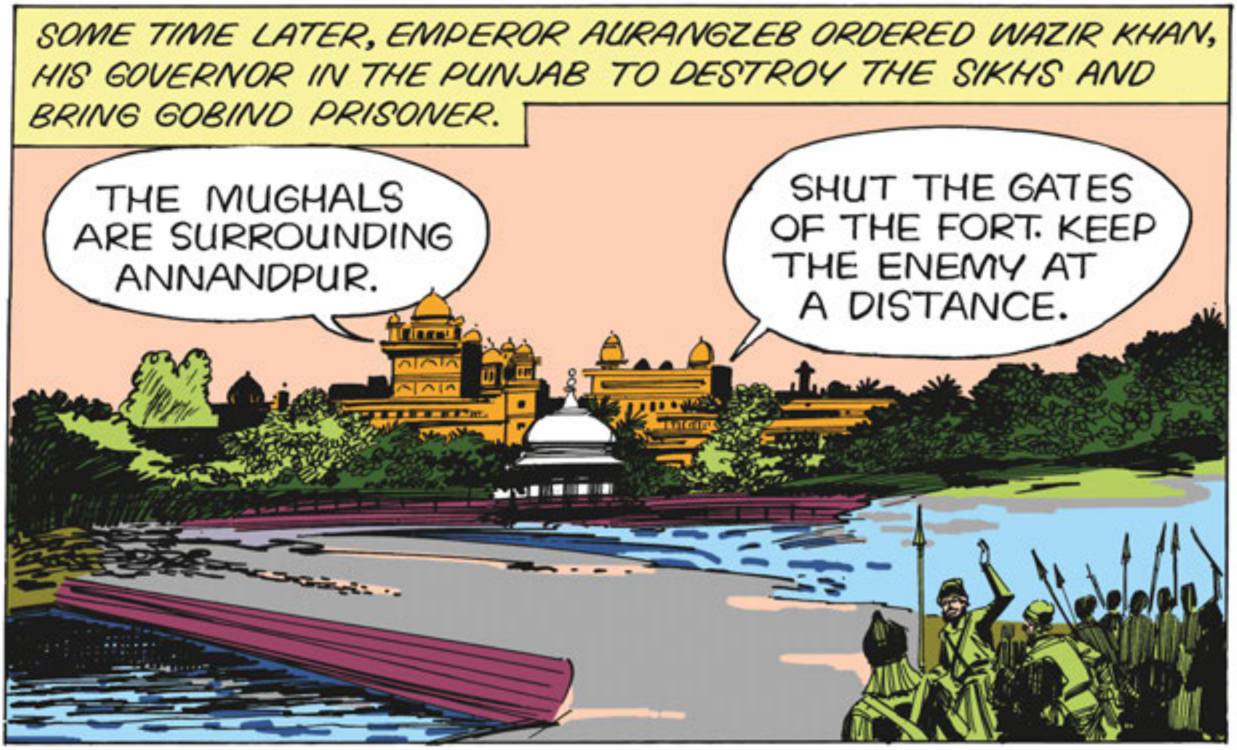
EARLY IN 1699 GURU GOBIND ASKED HIS SIKHS TO ASSEMBLE ON THE FIRST DAY OF BAISAKHI.
THE SIKHS SHOULD COME TO ME WEARING LONG HAIR. THEY SHOULD GIVE UP TOBACCO AND SHOULD RECEIVE BAPTISM OF THE SWORD.
GURU GOBIND
ON THAT DAY A LARGE NUMBER ASSEMBLED.
I WANT ONE HUMAN HEAD
THERE WAS A STUNNED SILENCE, THEN A YOUNG MAN GOT UP.
MY HEAD IS FOR YOU, MY GURU!
THEN COME WITH ME!

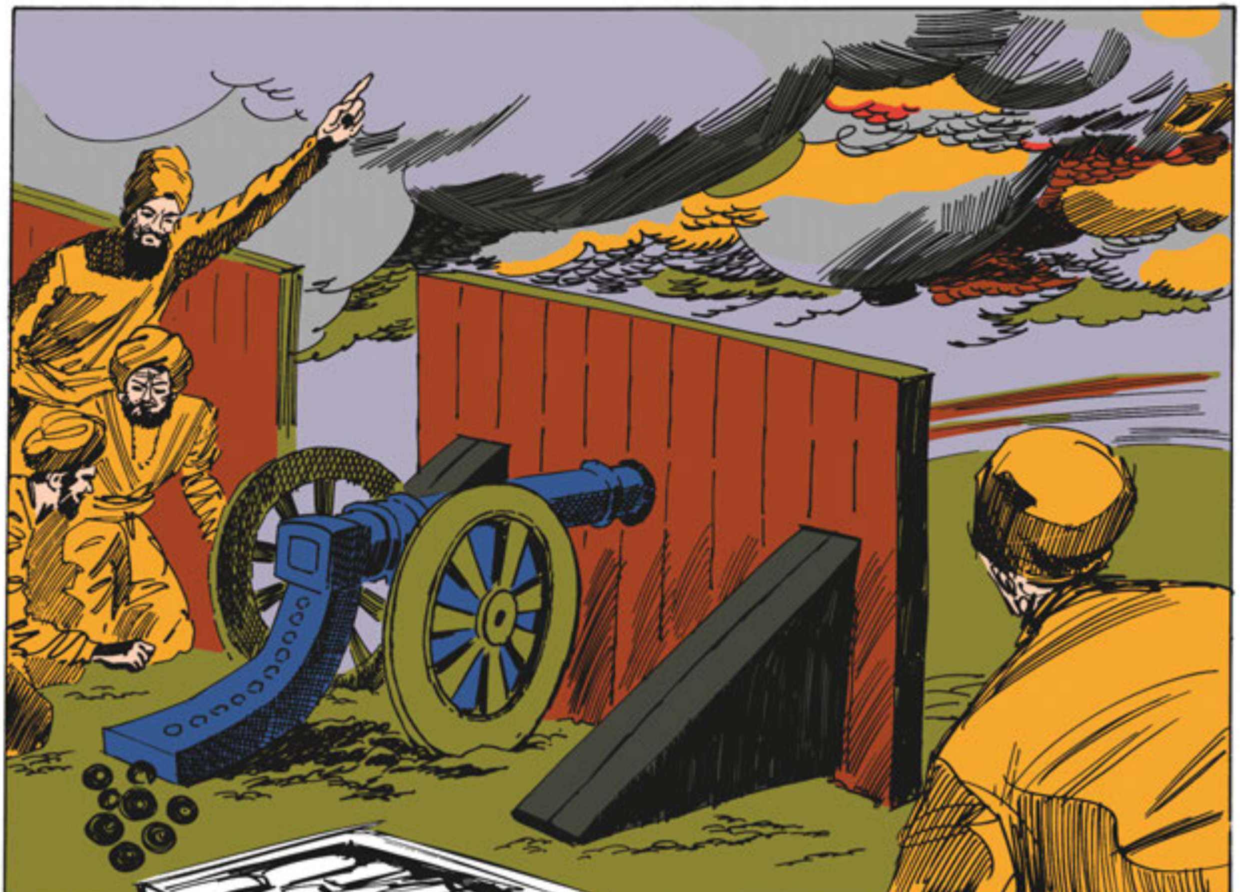

WHEN GURU GOBIND REAPPEARED, HIS SWORD WAS STAINED RED WITH BLOOD.
I WANT ONE MORE HUMAN HEAD
MY HEAD IS FOR YOU, MY GURU
GURU GOBIND TOOK THE SECOND YOUNG MAN INTO THE TENT.
WHEN HE RE-APPEARED HE WAS ALONE AND HIS SWORD WAS FRESHLY STAINED WITH BLOOD.
THE SAME HAPPENED WITH THREE OTHER YOUNG MEN WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR LIVES FOR GURU GOBIND.


AFTER THE FIFTH MAN HAD DISAPPEARED INTO THE TENT AND GURU GOBIND HAD RE-APPEARED WITH HIS SWORD BLOOD-STAINED, HE AGAIN ENTERED THE TENT AND THEN RE-EMERGED.
THESE ARE MY BELOVED FIVE -MY PANJ PAYARE. THEIR FAITH HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW COMMU-NITY- THE KHALSA OR THE PURE.
THEY ARE ALL ALIVE! BUT HOW WAS HIS SWORD DRIPPING WITH BLOOD?
HE WAS JUST TESTING US.
THEN GURU GOBIND ASKED FOR AN IRON VESSEL WHICH HE FILLED WITH WATER. TO THIS HE ADDED SUGAR WHICH HE STIRRED IN WITH A DOUBLE-EDGED DAGGER.
THE FIVE DISCIPLES WERE GIVEN THIS AMRIT.
HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL ALL BE KNOWN AS SINGHS AND YOU WILL GROW YOUR HAIR AND BEARD...


WHY MUST WE GROW OUR HAIR AND BEARD?
HAIR IS THE EMBLEM OF THE INDIAN ASCETIC. YOU WILL BE SOLDIER SAINTS. A COMB TO KEEP YOUR HAIR TIDY SHALL BE YOUR SECOND EMBLEM.
THE KIRPAN IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR DEFENCE. YOU MUST ALWAYS BE SOLDIERS IN SOLDIERS' BREECHES_ THE KACCHA.
YOU WILL ALSO WEAR A KADA *

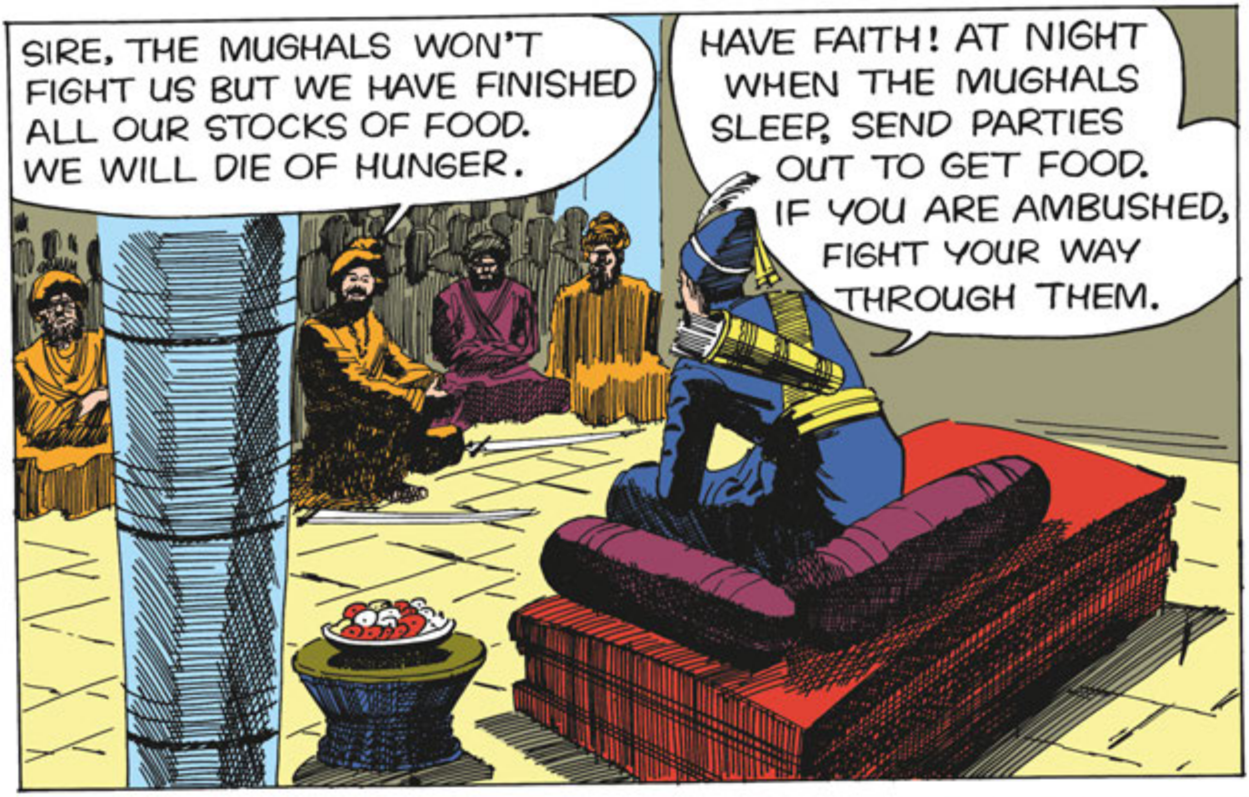

HE HAS GIVEN FIVE EMBLEMS ALL BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER K— KESH, KANGHA KACCHA, KADA AND KIRPAN.
AND HE HAS GIVEN US ONE NAME— WE ARE ALL SINGHS.

AND REMEMBER YOU ARE THE PURE— THE KHALSA. NEVER RAISE YOUR ARMS AGAINST THE WEAK, NEVER MOLEST A WOMAN. REGARD ALL HUMAN BEINGS AS YOUR BROTHERS.

AS YOU HAVE BAPTISED US, WE BAPTISE YOU. YOU ARE NO LONGER GOBIND RAI, BUT GOBIND SINGH. THE RULES THAT APPLY TO US WILL APPLY TO YOU.
SO BE IT. THE GURU IS OF THE KHALSA AS MUCH AS THE KHALSA IS OF THE GURU.

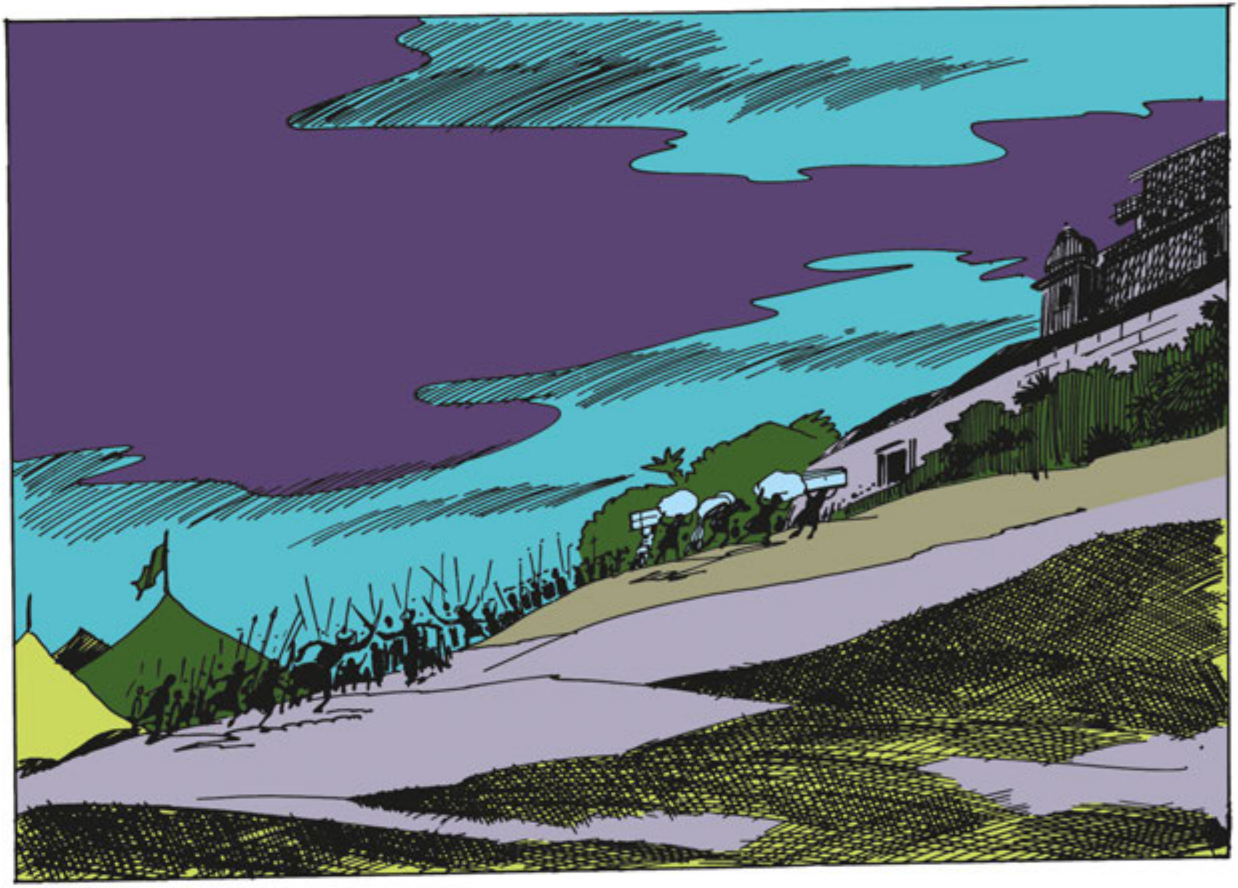

SOME TIME LATER, EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED WAZIR KHAN, HIS GOVERNOR IN THE PUNJAB TO DESTROY THE SIKHS AND BRING GOBIND PRISONER.
THE MUGHALS ARE SURROUNDING ANNANDPUR.
SHUT THE GATES OF THE FORT. KEEP THE ENEMY AT A DISTANCE.




THE SIKHS WILL NOT LET OUR MEN GET NEAR THE WALLS. WHAT SHALL WE DO?
WE SHALL PRETEND TO ATTACK ANNANDPUR FROM THE REAR. MEANWHILE CHARGE THE MAIN GATE WITH OUR WAR ELE-PHANTS.
THEY ARE COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE. WHAT SHALL WE DO?
LET THEM COME. WE SHALL RECKON WITH THEM.

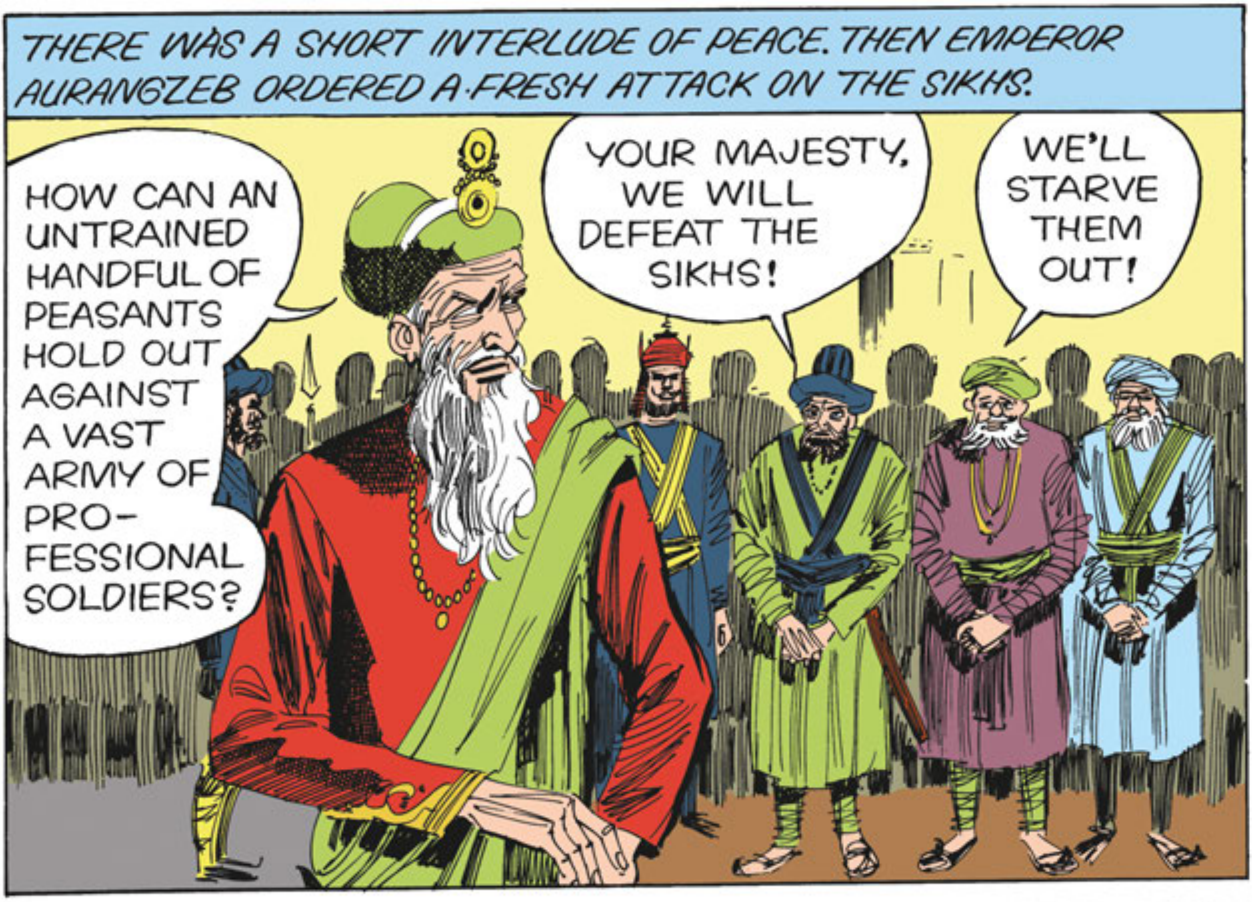

THE GATE WILL GIVE WAY; THE MUGHALS WILL ENTER OUR CITADEL.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
FOR THE GLORY OF THE GURU AND THE KHALSA.
HOW CAN WE FIGHT PEOPLE AS BRAVE AS THESE?
LET US WITHDRAW TO A SAFE DISTANCE AND STARVE THEM INTO SURREN-DERING.


SIRE, THE MUGHALS WON'T FIGHT US BUT WE HAVE FINISHED ALL OUR STOCKS OF FOOD. WE WILL DIE OF HUNGER.
HAVE FAITH! AT NIGHT WHEN THE MUGHALS SLEEP, SEND PARTIES OUT TO GET FOOD. IF YOU ARE AMBUSHED, FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH THEM.

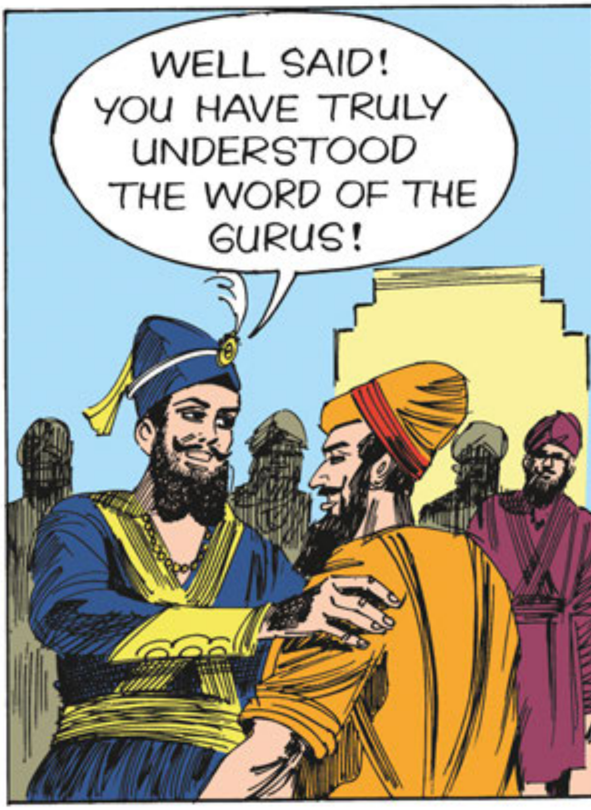


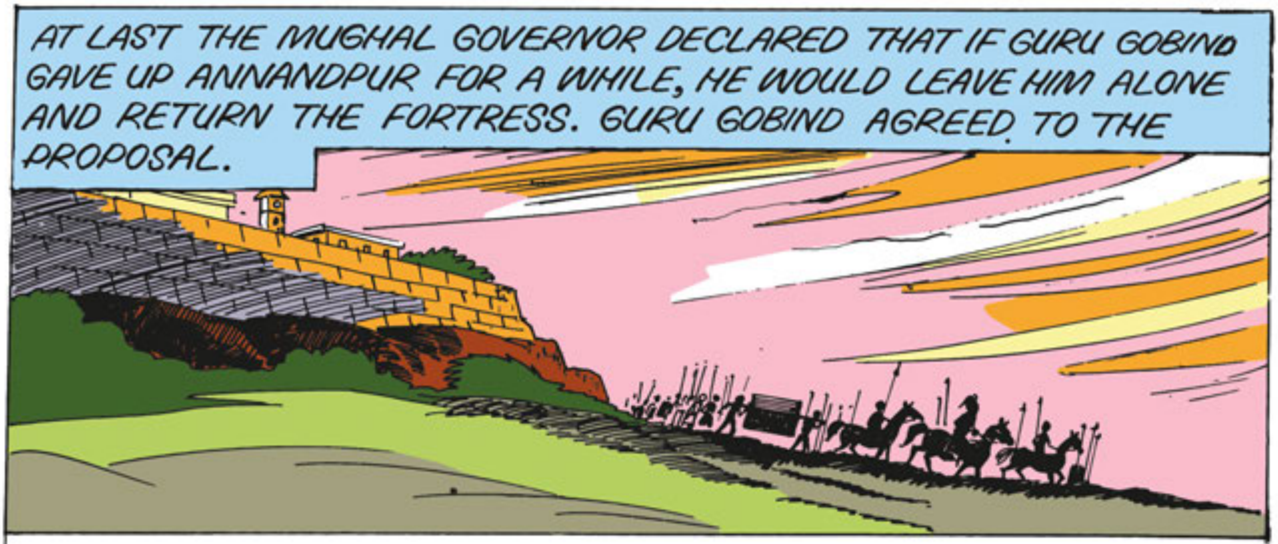

THE SIEGE DRAGGED ON FOR SIX LONG MONTHS AND THE EMPEROR WAS FURIOUS. AT LAST ONE OF HIS ABLEST GENERALS, PAINDA KHAN MADE A DECISION.
I WILL CHALLENGE GOBIND TO FIGHT ME SINGLE-HANDED TO SETTLE THE ISSUE. SEND AN ENVOY TO HIM.
WHEN THE MUGHAL ENVOY ARRIVED–
PAINDA KHAN IS THE BEST MARKSMAN IN THE MUGHAL ARMY. DO NOT ACCEPT THIS CHAL-LENGE.
TELL PAINDA KHAN, I'LL AWAIT HIM OUTSIDE THE GATE, TOMORROW MORNING.
NEXT DAY–
SINCE YOU ARE THE CHALLENGER MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.
AND THE LAST. YOU HAVE ASKED FOR DEATH, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.


TRY AGAIN. THIS ONE WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
NOW IT IS MY TURN. BE ON YOUR GUARD.
YOUR REED ARROWS CANNOT SCRATCH MY STEEL ARMOUR.
SAT SRI AKAL! VICTORY TO GURU GOBIND SINGH!


THERE WAS A SHORT INTERLUDE OF PEACE. THEN EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED A FRESH ATTACK ON THE SIKHS.
HOW CAN AN UNTRAINED HANDFUL OF PEASANTS HOLD OUT AGAINST A VAST ARMY OF PRO-FESSIONAL SOLDIERS?
YOUR MAJESTY, WE WILL DEFEAT THE SIKHS!
WE'LL STARVE THEM OUT!


ONE DAY THE SIKHS BROUGHT A MAN NAMED KANHAIYA BEFORE GURU GOBIND SINGH.
I CAUGHT HIM GIVING THE WOUNDED ENEMIES WATER!
YOU TOLD US TO SERVE ALL THOSE IN NEED.

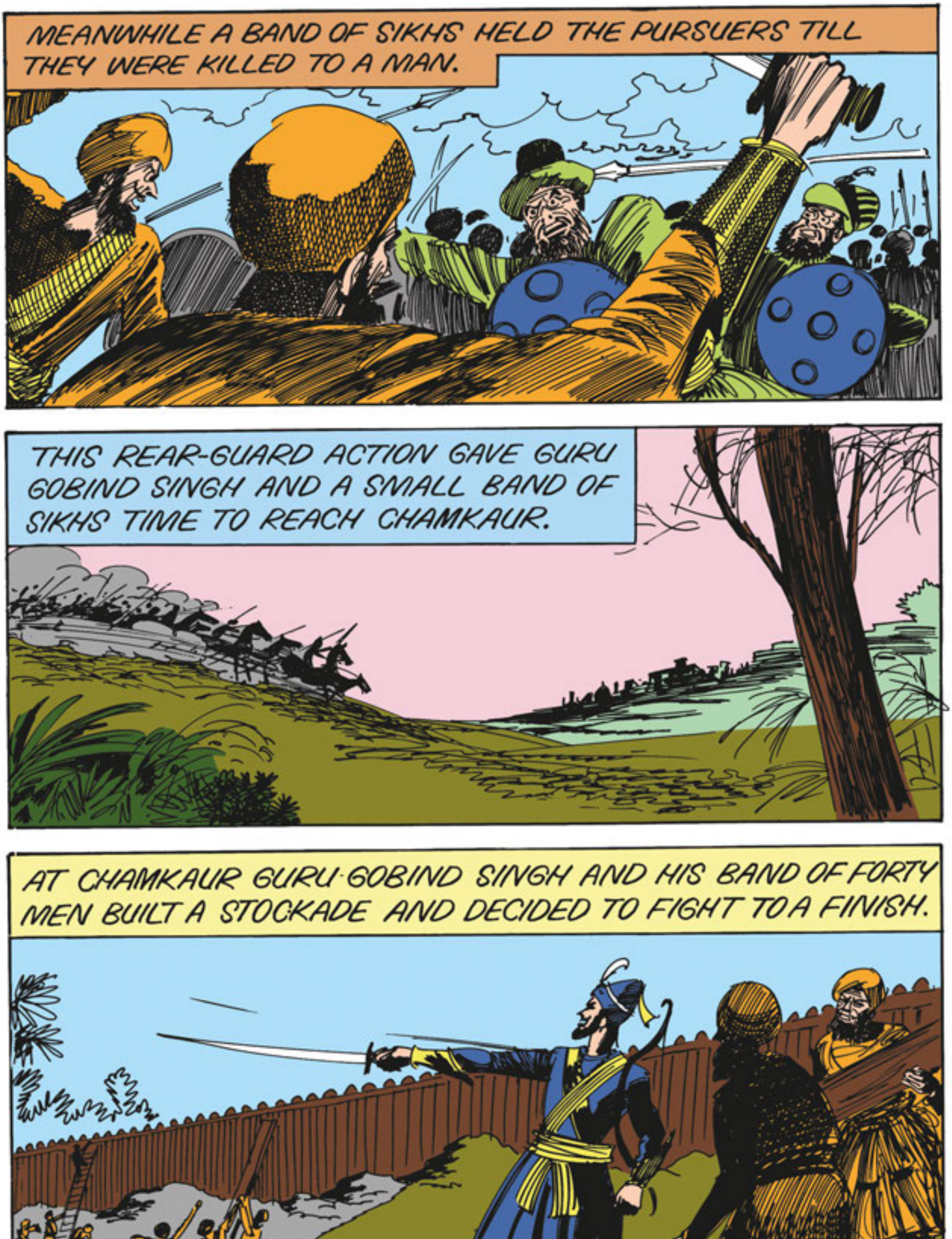

WELL SAID! YOU HAVE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE WORD OF THE GURUS!


AT LAST THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR DECLARED THAT IF GURU GOBIND GAVE UP ANNANDPUR FOR A WHILE, HE WOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE AND RETURN THE FORTRESS. GURU GOBIND AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL.

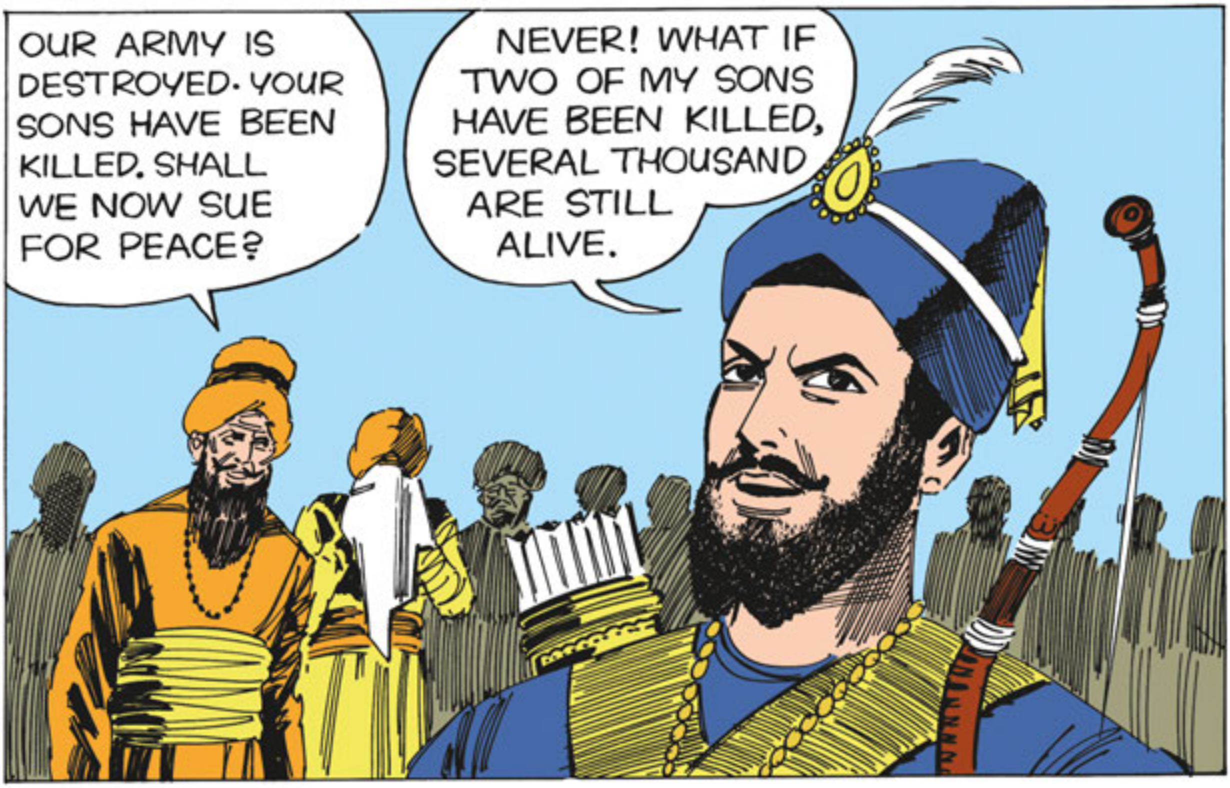

WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED, THE MUGHALS ARE ON US!
LET THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN BE TAKEN TO SAFTY. OTHERS HOLD THE REAR.

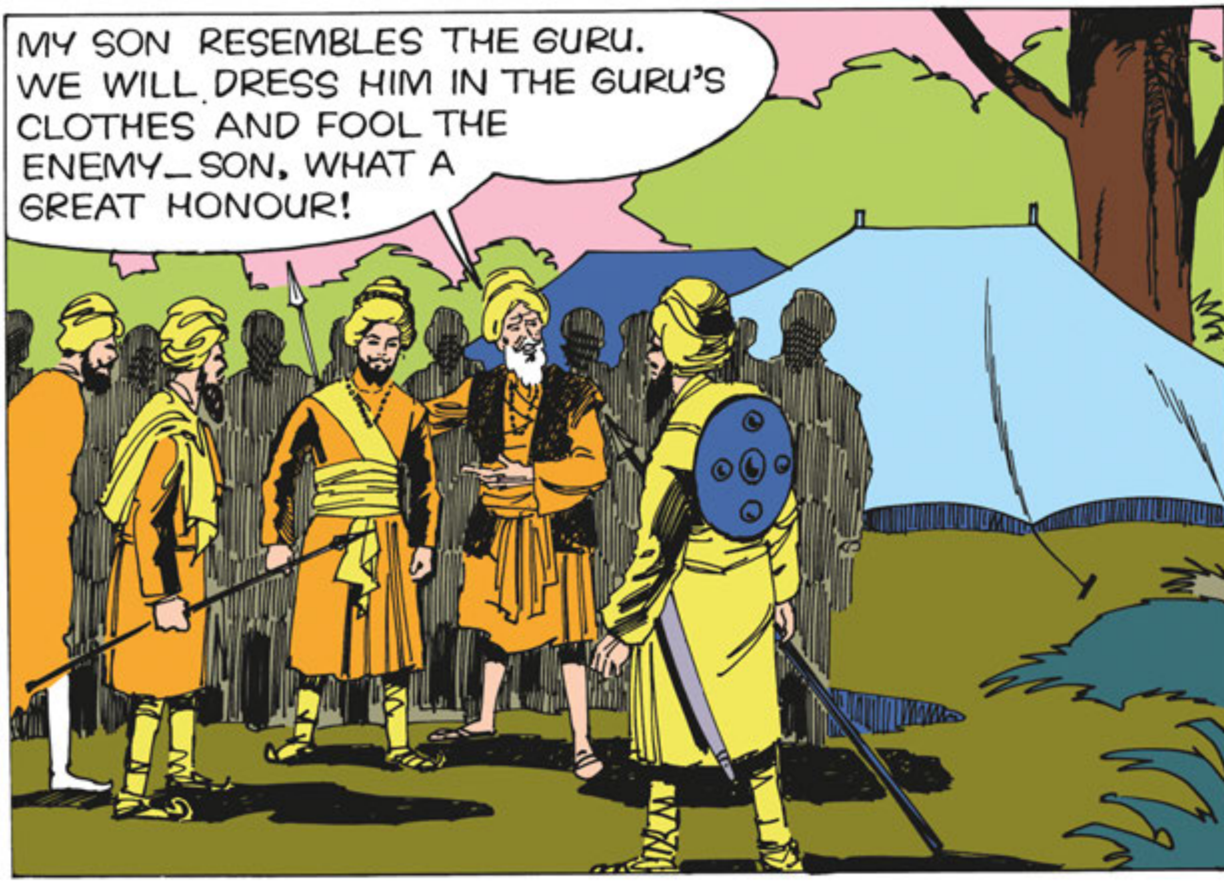

MATA GUJRI AND TWO OF THE GURU'S YOUNGER SONS WITH A SERVANT SOUGHT SHELTER IN SIRHIND.


BUT THEY WERE BETRAYED, CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS AND BROUGHT TO THE COURT OF THE GOVERNOR WAZIR KHAN.
IF YOU BECOME MUSLIMS YOUR LIVES WILL BE SPARED.
NEVER! WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST ISLAM. BUT WE ARE SIKHS AND SIKHS WE WILL REMAIN.
THE BOYS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH. THEY WERE BRICKED ALIVE BETWEEN TWO WALLS.


MEANWHILE A BAND OF SIKHS HELD THE PURSUERS TILL THEY WERE KILLED TO A MAN.
THIS REAR-GUARD ACTION GAVE GURU GOBIND SINGH AND A SMALL BAND OF SIKHS TIME TO REACH CHAMKAUR.
AT CHAMKAUR GURU GOBIND SINGH AND HIS BAND OF FORTY MEN BUILT A STOCKADE AND DECIDED TO FIGHT TO A FINISH.


WE HAVE LOST MOST OF OUR ARMY– ONLY A HANDFUL REMAIN.
SEND FOR MY SON AJIT SINGH.
SON, IT IS YOUR TURN TO GO. SEE THAT YOU DIE LIKE A WARRIOR.
YOUR WORD IS MY COMMAND. TO DIE IN A RIGHTEOUS CAUSE IS TO LIVE FOR EVER.
IT IS MY TURN NOW. CAN I FIRST DRINK SOME WATER? I AM THIRSTY.
NO, WHEN THE CALL FOR DUTY COMES YOU MUST NOT WASTE A MOMENT.


OUR ARMY IS DESTROYED. YOUR SONS HAVE BEEN KILLED. SHALL WE NOW SUE FOR PEACE?
NEVER! WHAT IF TWO OF MY SONS HAVE BEEN KILLED, SEVERAL THOUSAND ARE STILL ALIVE.


MY SON RESEMBLES THE GURU. WE WILL DRESS HIM IN THE GURU'S CLOTHES AND FOOL THE ENEMY_SON, WHAT A GREAT HONOUR!


DRESSED IN GURU GOBIND'S CLOTHES THE YOUNG SIKH...
... FACED THE ENEMY.
WE'VE KILLED THEM ALL! EVEN THE GURU OF THE SIKHS!
WHILE THE ENEMY WAS CELEBRATING THE KILL, GURU GOBIND SINGH MADE HIS ESCAPE.

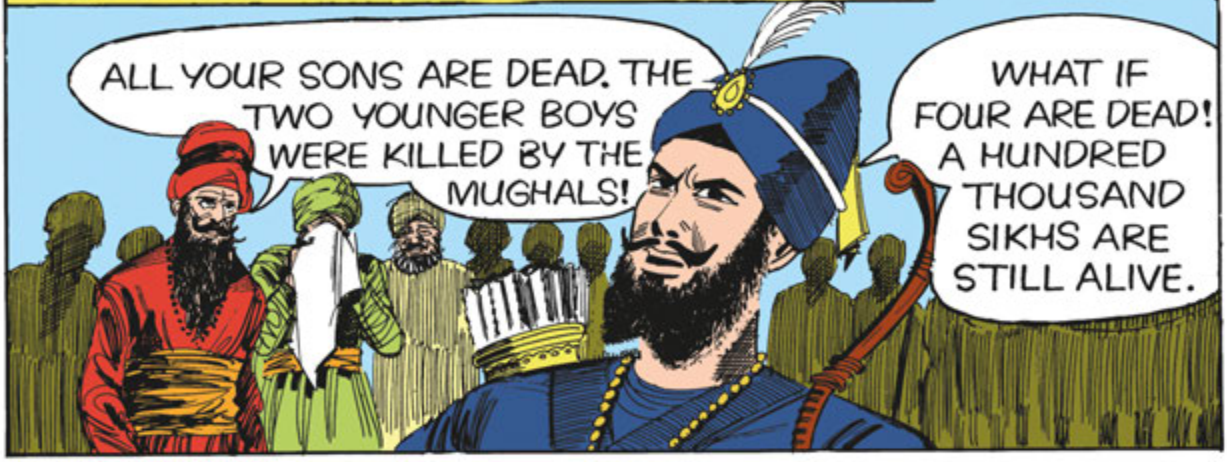

HE WANDERED ABOUT ALONE EVADING HIS PURSUERS.


HE RESTED IN THE JUNGLE OF MACHIWARA.


WHEN HE REACHED THE TOWN, TWO FRIENDLY PATHANS HELPED HIM ESCAPE.



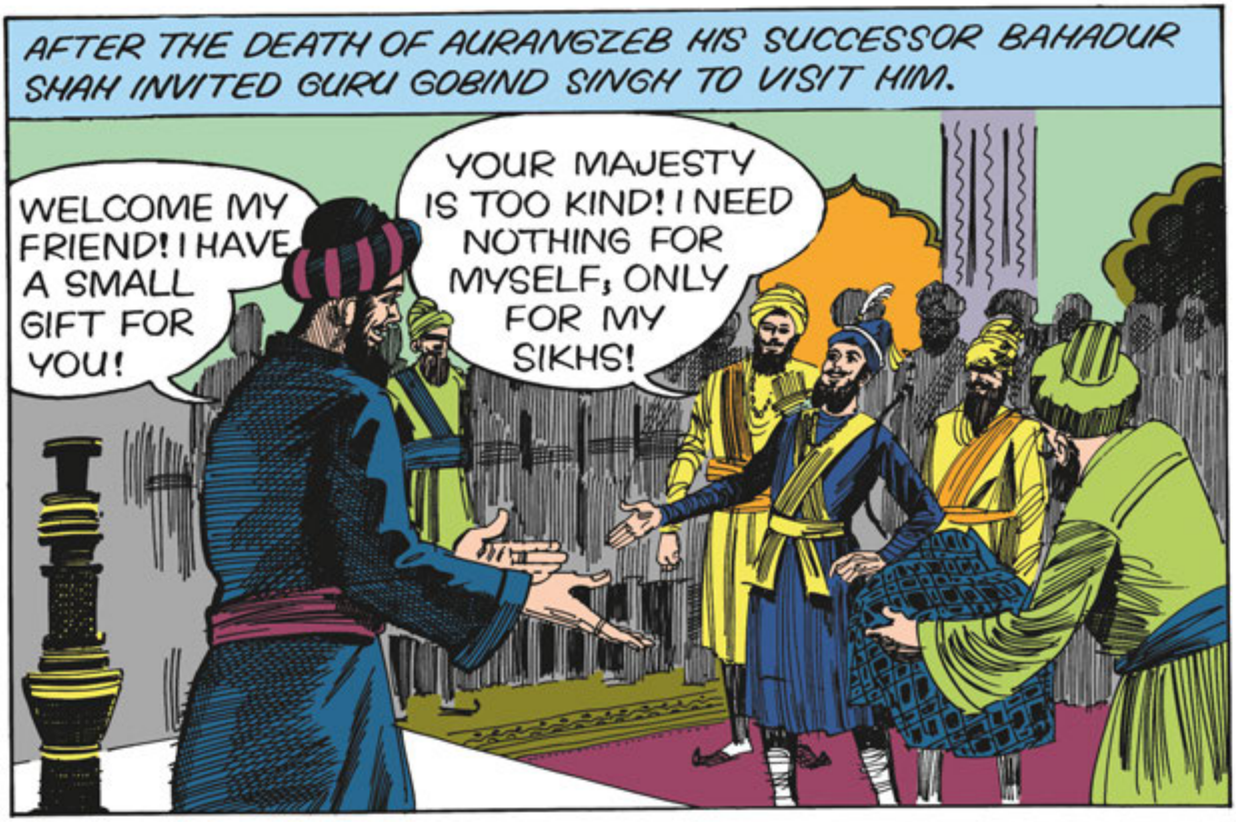
ONE DAY A SIKH CAME TO GURU GOBIND SINGH.

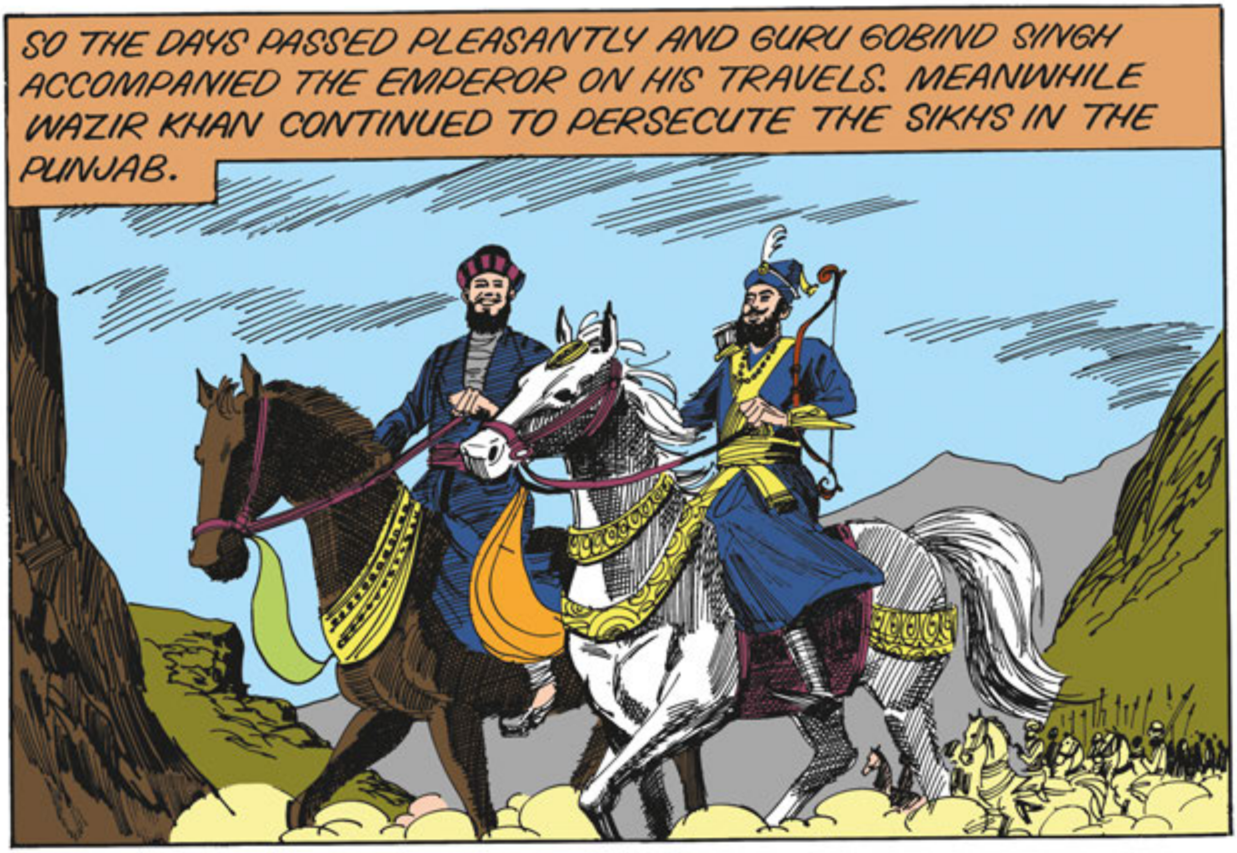


GURU GOBIND SINGH WROTE A LONG LETTER TO AURANGZEB HOLDING HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEEDS OF HIS OFFICIALS.






AFTER THE DEATH OF AURANGZEB HIS SUCCESSOR BAHADUR SHAH INVITED GURU GOBIND SINGH TO VISIT HIM.
WELCOME MY FRIEND! I HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOU!
YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO KIND! I NEED NOTHING FOR MYSELF; ONLY FOR MY SIKHS!


SO THE DAYS PASSED PLEASANTLY AND GURU GOBIND SINGH ACCOMPANIED THE EMPEROR ON HIS TRAVELS. MEANWHILE WAZIR KHAN CONTINUED TO PERSECUTE THE SIKHS IN THE PUNJAB.


ONE DAY–
SO YOU ARE GURU GOBIND! WHAT HAVE YOU COME TO THE GODAVARI FOR?
TO MAKE YOU A DISCIPLE.
I AM YOUR BANDA, YOUR SLAVE.
I NAME YOU BANDA SINGH BAHADUR. GO BACK TO THE PUNJAB AND AROUSE MY SIKHS TO PUNISH THE PERSECUTORS OF THE SIKHS.
YOUR ORDERS WILL BE CARRIED OUT, MY GURU.



*THE HOLY BOOK OF THE SIKHS

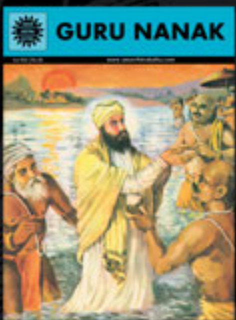

DO NOT MOURN MY DEATH! AS RAIN SUSTAINS THE SEED WHERE IT FALLS, SO SHALL MY WORDS REMAIN WITH YOU, MY KHALSA AND BEAR FRUIT!
AND DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS, GURU GOBIND SINGH'S HEALTH GREW WORSE AND ON OCTOBER 7, 1708 HE DIED.

VISIONARIES

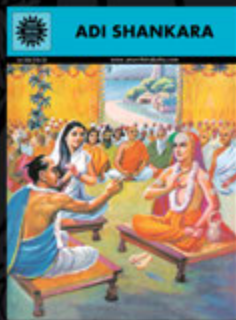
GURU GOBIND SINGH

'Sat Sri Akal!' Guru Gobind Singh's stirring war-cry achieved miracles. It converted a gentle, peaceable people into a fighting force that brooked no injustice. His band of Khalsas – the 'pure', who wore their hair long and were never without their breeches, their distinguishing bracelet and a handy comb and dagger – challenged the mighty Mughal armies. Guided by the teachings of their brave Guru, they have remained to this day the Singhs (or lions) of their native Punjab.

OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:





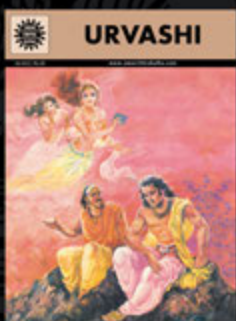




ALSO LOOK FOR:



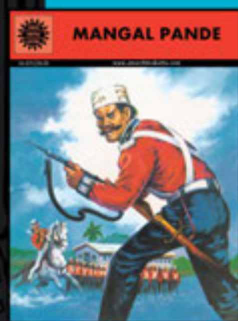
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"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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